
SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION

MISSION

To conserve the Natural Resources of Durham County by providing technical assistance, environmental education information, and economic incentives to County citizens and by exhibiting a diversified program to meet its changing needs.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Durham Soil & Water Conservation District, a political subdivision of State Government, provides local assistance in natural resource management. The District's major focus continues to be the implementation of State and Federal Regulations and Cost Share programs that effect water quality such as the North Carolina Agricultural Cost Share Program, Neuse River Basin regulations, Federal Conservation Reserve Programs (CRP), Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQUIP) and regulations governing Animal Waste Management Systems. The Soil & Water Conservation department's involvement includes administration and technical assistance for the 1985, 1990, and 1996 Farm Bills and a variety of State and Federal water quality programs. The District is involved in resolving resource problems created by housing developments, shopping centers, and highways. The agency is also involved in the restoration and stabilization of Durham County's streams and rivers.

The District provides information and coordinates assistance from other agencies by means of television programs, newspaper articles, magazines, and public meetings. Also, administrative and technical assistance and the coordination of local, state, and federal governments is provided which encourages land users and land owners to install Best Management Practices (BMPs).

Watershed classification rules now hold the District responsible for compliance with the 10 feet buffer zone in water critical areas of Lake Michie, Little River, and the Falls Lake reservoir.

The District office is located on the second floor of the County Agriculture Building at 721 Foster Street, and is open to the public Monday through Thursday from 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and on Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Services are available to all Durham County residents.

2002-03 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Reviewed 110 Sediment and Erosion Control Plans with 1-day plan turn-around.
- Conducted 15 Drainage Inventory and Evaluations on home sites within two weeks of request.
- Conducted 33 Pond Inventory and Evaluations.
- Increased knowledge of 18,876 citizens.
- Signed up 4 voluntary Agricultural Districts.
- Assisted 91 Environmental Consultants.
- Reviewed 35 Special Use Permit Plans.
- Provided technical service for 23 CRP contracts.
- Reported completion of progress in Performance and Results Measurement System (PRMS).
- Conducted Status Reviews that showed 100% compliance.
- Reviewed 100% of active contracts to assure compliance.
- Conducted County's Big Sweep efforts with 219 volunteers, 5,590 pounds of trash disposed.

2003-04 OBJECTIVES

- Implement conservation plans as requested.
- Maintain 100% compliance on Watershed Classification Regulations.
- Review 100% of Sediment and Erosion Control plans within half of the 20-day allotment period.
- Respond to 100% of Drainage Inventory and Evaluation requests of Durham County citizens within a two-week period.
- Respond to 100% of Pond Inventory and Evaluation requests of Durham County citizens within a two-week period.
- Administer and recruit for Farmland Preservation Program.
- Review 100% of landowners' and land users' FSA plans.
- Have 100% of technical staff becoming Certified Conservation Planners.
- Work with landowners on Nutrient Management to obtain 30% nitrogen reduction (0.238 regulation).
- Allocate 100% of State funds for program to landowners and operators in Durham County.
- Review 100% of active contracts with applicants for compliance.
- Organize and conduct County's Big Sweep efforts to reduce trash in streams by 3,000 lbs.